

INSTRUCTION

School Calendar (continued)

A school calendar shall be prepared annually to indicate pertinent dates and information essential to the operation of the division schools. The calendar shall be planned by the superintendent and staff and approved by the School Board.

The establishment of the school calendar should take the following into consideration:

1. The number of school days necessary to meet requirements of the State Board of Education;
2. National and state legal holidays;
3. Provisions for emergency closings of schools;
4. A reasonable opening and closing date to allow for summer commitments of teachers, parents, and students;
5. The calendar for facilities providing joint services;
6. Other pertinent factors.

If circumstances warrant, the School Board may amend the school calendar during the school year.

Length of Instructional School Year

In Stafford County, the instructional school year is defined as 180 days with six hours of instruction per day. This provides for a total of 1,080 hours. By providing 90 hours beyond the state minimum of 990 hours, Stafford County is able to provide early dismissals during the school year. In addition, the School Board is provided flexibility in dealing with changes in the school calendar necessitated by severe emergencies.

Legal Reference: Through June 30, 1999

Code of Va., §22.1-79. Powers and duties. (1997)

Code of Va., §22.1-79.1. Opening of the school year. (1998)

Regulations of the Virginia State Board of Education, "Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia." Standard School Year and School Day. 8VAC 20-131-150 (September 4, 1997, effective October 31, 1997.)

Code of Va., §22.1-98. Reduction of State aid when length of school term below 180 days or 990 hours. (1990)

State Board of Education Guidelines, "One-year waiver."

Editor's Note

§22.1-98 is quoted as a legal reference to school board policy #4-16.

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Adopted by School Board: March 24, 1987